

By: Hegar

S.B. No. 817

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain requirements for political parties holding conventions and for officers of certain of those parties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 161.005, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve as a county or precinct chair of a political party, a person must:

(1) be a qualified voter of the county; and

(2) except as provided by Subsection (c), not be a candidate for nomination or election to, or be the holder of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government.

(c) A candidate for nomination or election to, or the holder of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government is eligible to serve as a county or precinct chair of a political party to which Chapter 181 applies.

SECTION 2. Section 163.002, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 163.002. REQUIRED RULES. A political party that makes nominations in this state shall adopt rules that:

(1) prescribe the parliamentary procedure governing the conduct of party meetings and conventions from the precinct level to the state level, including:

- 1 (A) quorums;
- 2 (B) casting and counting votes;
- 3 (C) operation of executive committees;
- 4 (D) appointment and duties of convention
5 committees; and
- 6 (E) presentation of matters before a convention;
- 7 (2) prescribe the method of selecting the party's
8 presidential elector candidates;
- 9 (3) prescribe the manner of selecting party officers,
10 convention delegates, any convention alternates, and convention
11 officials;
- 12 (4) provide for representative apportionment of party
13 officers, convention delegates, any convention alternates, and
14 convention officials throughout the state on the basis of
15 population, party strength, or both, within the appropriate
16 territorial unit;
- 17 (5) provide for periodic publication and publicizing
18 of party rules; and
- 19 (6) prescribe the manner of adopting party rules and
20 amendments to the rules.

21 SECTION 3. Section 181.061(a), Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (a) A political party nominating by convention must make its
24 nominations for statewide offices at a state convention held on the
25 second Saturday in April [~~June~~] of the election year. The state
26 convention consists of delegates selected at the county conventions
27 held under Subsection (c).

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.